Lessons Learned Information Sharing
www.LLIS.gov

April 2006 *Lessons Learned Information Sharing* Newsletter

Contents

Member Preparations for Hurricane Season

Share Hurricane Preparedness Tips with *LLIS.gov*

June 1, 2006 marks the beginning of the 2006 Hurricane Season and with this date rapidly approaching *LLIS.gov* would like to hear from members about what their jurisdictions are doing to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season. Please login and click on Feedback to submit your jurisdiction's hurricane preparedness plans.

In addition, to access hurricane related information, login to the *LLIS.gov* Hurricane Preparedness page to view relevant Lessons Learned, Best Practices, after-action reports, and other documents related to hurricane response and disaster recovery.

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Avian Flu on *LLIS.gov*

Introducing The Avian Flu Page

In response to avian influenza outbreaks appearing in humans since 1997 and the threat it poses across the country, *LLIS.gov* has gathered Lessons Learned, Good Stories, Best Practices, after-action reports, and other documents related to quarantine, bioterrorism, and disease outbreak in a new area of the site dedicated to Avian Flu.

LLIS.gov is also collecting input from various emergency response and homeland security sources on issues relating to avian influenza. In 2003 and 2004, avian influenza reached eight countries in Asia, and the virus remains volatile and unpredictable. Best Practices and Lessons Learned on issues relating to quarantine, bioterrorism, public health, and disease outbreak may contribute to preparedness across the nation. Help *LLIS.gov* by providing us with your comments, experiences, and observations by visiting the new Avian Flu page.

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Geographic Information Systems (GIS) on *LLIS.gov*

Introducing The GIS Page

The *LLIS.gov* Team is interested in receiving contributions detailing how responders, state and local governments, and private organizations are using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications for the benefit of the emergency response and homeland security communities. This could include mapping possible vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure, or using GIS tools to formulate terrorist scenarios, discern crime statistics and patterns, or determine evacuation traffic flows.

A dedicated *LLIS.gov* GIS module provides *LLIS.gov* members with a forum in which they can share data, communicate and collaborate with each other. The module will also seek to promote the applicability of geospatial capabilities in the homeland security realm. The *LLIS.gov* GIS team welcomes your submissions and suggestions.

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New Original Content Posted Since Last Newsletter

The *LLIS.gov* Team continues to post new Lessons Learned, Best Practices, and Good Stories to the system on a regular basis. Updates about new original content can be found in the "What's New" section on the homepage of *LLIS.gov*.

Since the last Newsletter, *LLIS.gov* has posted the following original content:

Lessons Learned

- **Exercise Design: Scheduling Evaluation Meetings between Exercise Play Sessions** (*Exercise Team Spirit: Response to an Air Disaster After-Action Report*)
  Exercise planners should consider scheduling evaluation meetings between sessions of exercise play. These meetings can enable participants to identify problem areas and improve emergency response efforts in later segments of the exercise.

- **Exercise Planning: Pre-Designating Backup Incident Commanders and Section Chiefs** (*Oklahoma State Department of Health Exercise: Operation Flu Vaccine*)
  Exercise planners should identify and include backup Incident Commanders (ICs) and section chiefs in full-scale or functional exercises. Utilizing backup commanders ensures that exercise play can continue even if key players must remove themselves from the exercise in order to attend to real-world situations.

- **Veterinary Services: Providing Evacuation Information to Animal Owners** (*San Diego County After-Action Report: Firestorms 2003*)
  Local animal services organizations should provide advance information to animal owners on the equipment necessary to move their pets or livestock in the event of an emergency. Public and private animal services organizations should also provide animal owners with information on appropriate evacuation sites and ingress/egress routes to those sites.

- **School Evacuations: Using Traffic Directors to Control Bus Arrival and Departure** (*Vermont's Windham Southeast Supervisory Union School District 2004 Full-Scale Evacuation Exercise*)
  Prior to an evacuation, school officials should designate staff members to act as traffic directors in order to aid bus drivers who are not familiar with the evacuating school's pick-up zones.

- **Emergency Operations Centers: Primary and Secondary Locations** (*Escalon, CA 2004 Train Derailment Tabletop Exercise After-Action Report*)
  Following a large-scale incident, the primary Emergency Operations Center (EOC) may be unusable because of its proximity to the incident scene. Emergency Disaster Plans (EDP) should pre-designate a secondary EOC so that response personnel can quickly establish operations in an alternate, lower-risk area. Emergency management personnel should be aware of the precise locations of both EOCs.

- **Emergency Management: Activation Lists for Emergency Operations Centers** (*Escalon, CA 2004 Train Derailment Tabletop Exercise After-Action Report*)
  Emergency Disaster Plans (EDP) should contain a regularly updated Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation list that details the positions, names, and contact information of both primary and alternate EOC personnel. This list will enable prompt EOC staffing and activation in the event of an incident.

- **Family Assistance Centers: On-Site Medical Support** (*Rhode Island Station Club Fire After-Action Report*)
  Family Assistance Centers (FACs) should have on-site medical support during a mass casualty incident (MCI).

- **Radiological Incident Response: Decontamination of Buildings and Public Sites** (*The Radiological Accident in Goiania*)
  Emergency managers should develop decontamination plans and disposal procedures for buildings and large venues following a release of radioactive materials.

- **Medical Care: Victim Self-Referral Following a Mass Casualty Incident** (*1995 Sarin Attacks on the Japanese Subway*)
  Following a mass casualty incident (MCI), medical facilities should be prepared for victims to arrive by means other than ambulance, such as taxis or private vehicles. Victims may self-refer to a facility with which they are familiar, rather than the one closest to the incident site.

- **Exercise Conduct: Preparing Volunteers for their Exercise Roles** (*2005 Volusia County, Florida Full-Scale Exercise*)
  Exercise planners should ensure that exercise volunteers receive training and information before a full-scale exercise (FSE) in order to perform their role(s) properly. Even with training and information, however, volunteers may act inappropriately during an exercise.

- **Special Event Planning: Transferring Patients through Secure Zones** (*2004 Democratic National Convention*)
  Prior to a special event, emergency medical services (EMS) personnel should develop plans to transfer injured or otherwise incapacitated individuals through secure zones to non-restricted areas before transporting them to area hospitals.

- **Radiological Incident Response: Establishing a Temporary Storage Site for Contaminated Material** (*The Radiological Accident in Goiania*)

In September 1987, an accidental release of Cesium-137 (Ce-137) in Goiânia, Brazil, caused the second largest nuclear accident after Chernobyl. Brazilian authorities had to establish a temporary storage site for radiologically contaminated materials from the beginning of incident response.

- **Public Communications: Distributing Emergency Information in Multiple Languages** (*Hurricane Katrina*)
  During response and recovery operations involving a multi-ethnic community, state and local officials should ensure that safety information in multiple languages is distributed to the public. The languages chosen should reflect the ethnic composition of the targeted communities.

- **School Evacuation Planning: Using Absolute Enrollment Numbers When Requesting Transportation Assets** (*Vermont's Windham Southeast Supervisory Union School District 2004 Full-Scale Evacuation Exercise*)
  Emergency planners should encourage school officials to use absolute enrollment numbers rather than daily attendance figures when calculating the number of buses required for a safe and efficient evacuation.

- **Interagency Communications: Adopting Common Terminology across Emergency Response Disciplines** (*Cascade Resolve Full-Scale Exercise 2005*)
  Local emergency managers, fire officials, rescue personnel, and law enforcement commanders should consider establishing a common field terminology that is easily understood by members of all emergency response disciplines in a given jurisdiction.

Best Practices

- **Public-Private Partnerships for Emergency Preparedness: Overview**
  State and local public safety agencies must establish partnerships with private sector entities on emergency prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts to protect the nation's workforce, economy, and critical infrastructure. Public-private partnerships help establish relationships prior to incidents, when familiarity with each other's capabilities and response procedures is paramount. Such partnerships enable the public and private sectors to develop all-hazards plans to pool resources and information, coordinate response and recovery efforts, and share educational and training opportunities.

Good Stories

- **New Jersey's Urban Area Security Initiative Rapid Deployment Force**
  New Jersey's Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) is an interagency regional task force serving northeast New Jersey. Funded by the Department of Homeland Security's UASI grant program, RDF officers receive standardized training and equipment that allow for a quick, capable response to terrorist incidents, especially chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) incidents.

- **Volusia County, Florida Ocean Mass Casualty Exercise**
  Volusia County, Florida hosted an ocean mass casualty exercise that simulated a missle attack on a commercial airliner departing from Daytona Beach International Airport. The exercise allowed jurisdictional representatives and responders to test their emergency response processes and public safety plans within the context of an ocean mass casualty incident. The exercise's success was predicated on extensive pre-planning, as well as the assistance of federal, state, local, and private partners.

- **The New York City Office of Emergency Management's Deep Infrastructure Group**
  Three days after the destruction of the World Trade Center's twin towers on September 11, 2001, the New York City Office of Emergency Management created the Deep Infrastructure Group (DIG). DIG's mandate was to gather maps, datasets, and other critical information about the infrastructure beneath the collapsed towers, including water, gas, engineering, electricity, and sewer lines. This data proved to be vital to rescue and recovery operations at the site.

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11th Anniversary of 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing

April 19, 2006 - 11th Anniversary of 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing

April 19, 2006 marks the 11th anniversary of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on April 19, 1995. To access reports and documents related to the bombing visit the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism's (MIPT) website, which serves as the living memorial, or login to *LLIS.gov* to access relevant lessons learned and after-action reports.

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Upcoming *LLIS.gov* Conference Participation

The *LLIS.gov* Team travels around the country speaking and exhibiting at emergency response and homeland security conferences. *LLIS.gov* will exhibit at the following upcoming conferences:

- **April 19-21: The 9th Annual Distributed Medical Intelligence Conference and Exposition (New Orleans, LA)**
- **April 24-26: IAFC's Fire-Rescue Med Conference and Exposition (Las Vegas, NV)**
- **April 26-27: Ready! - The Emergency Preparedness and Response Conference and Exposition (Washington, DC)**
- **April 28-30: The Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs Annual Spring Executive Development Session (St. Simons Island, GA)**

Feel free to drop by our booth at any of these conferences and share your comments and questions about *LLIS.gov* with our staff. Please contact the *LLIS.gov* Outreach Team at outreach@llis.dhs.gov with any questions, comments, or if you have a conference or event that you would like the *LLIS.gov* staff to present or exhibit at.

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Updating User Contact Information

Update Your Contact Information

In an effort to maintain a current nationwide network of response providers and homeland security officials, please take a minute to update your professional contact information. To update your information, click on "My Settings" at the top of the *LLIS.gov* homepage.

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